

Discussion preparation for NPLCC S-TEK subcommittee meeting, June 13-14

How should we evaluate the relative priority of identified potential information and tool needs?

**(Please review the following as background for the
planned discussion at 3:45-4:30 on 6/13)**

Once a robust list of potential information and tool needs has been developed, we need to determine which information needs to address in the 2013-2017 Strategy. This determination should be based both on the value to the NPLCC of the information, and the portfolio-level considerations discussed previously.

At the February meeting, the S-TEK subcommittee discussed several ways for evaluating & prioritizing potential information needs. The approach used for setting FY12 priorities was an informal version of a multi-attribute analysis, and the general feedback from the subcommittee was that this type of approach would be a useful and transparent approach to setting priorities for the S-TEK strategy. The following steps are necessary to implement the approach:

1. Identify/develop a set of criteria that will establish information priority
 - a. Develop a well-defined set of metrics for evaluating how well each information need meets each criterion
2. Evaluate each potential information need using the metrics (e.g., “score” the needs)
3. If necessary, establish weights reflecting the relative importance of each criterion in determining information priority
4. Combine the “scores” and “weights” to obtain a priority evaluation for each need

The S-TEK briefly discussed several criteria that could be relevant in evaluating the priority or importance of addressing an identified information need. Again, these are provided below as a starting point for the June 13th discussions:

- Decision-relevance of the information (For what decisions is the information critical? How important are those decisions? How critical is the information to those decisions?)
- Breadth or range of decisions the information could support
- Number of partners or stakeholders who could use the information to support their decisions
- Urgency / timing of information needs relative to decision needs
- Will the identified information better characterize one or more of the specified outcomes of interest to NPLCC partners (e.g., habitat quality and quantity, species population health [for species of management interest], economic benefits from the landscape, etc)? Which outcomes?
- Does an opportunity for information collection & uncertainty reduction exist now that will not exist later?
- Criticality of LCC-level participation (e.g., is not currently be addressed by anyone else)
- Other benefits of LCC-level participation (e.g., partnership building)